

Online Keynotes

June 23, 2026 (Tuesday), 8:00 – 10:00 pm, Ankara Time



Girish Kumar Gopalakrishnan, MS, CMBB, CSSBB, CMQ-OE
Senior Manager – Continuous Improvement – CNH
Senior Member – IEOM Society International

Girish Kumar Gopalakrishnan is a North America Continuous Improvement Senior Manager at Case New Holland (CNH). Girish has led cross-plant transformation initiatives that have significantly advanced manufacturing performance, digital innovation, and cultural engagement across CNH's operations. He is a distinguished continuous improvement leader whose 15-year career reflects deep technical expertise, transformative leadership, and a sustained impact on operational excellence. He holds a Master's degree in Industrial Engineering from North Carolina State University. He was named one among top 50 business transformation leaders to follow in 2025 by Process Excellence Network. He received the 2025 Marlyn Hyde Commitment to Excellence Award from the American Society of Quality (ASQ) NE Illinois Chapter. He serves as an Industry Advisory Board Member for the

Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering department at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is an ASQ certified Master Black Belt, Black Belt and Certified Manager of Quality and Organizational Excellence. He is also a Senior member with Industrial Engineering & Operations Management Society (IEOM), ASQ and Institute of Industrial Engineers (IISE). Girish is serving as the Secretary of ASQ NE Illinois Chapter, and as an Editor-in-Chief of the ASQ Lean Enterprise Division eZine Quarterly Magazine.



Senthilkumar Thiyagarajan, Ph.D.
Senior Supply Chain Analyst
Medline Industries, LP
Northfield, Illinois, USA

Dr. Senthilkumar Thiyagarajan is a Senior Supply Chain Analyst in the Center of Excellence for Inventory Management at Medline Industries, LP. He earned his Ph.D. in Supply Chain Management from Purdue University and MS in Industrial Engineering from Arizona State University. His expertise spans supply chain resilience, digital twin technology, Industry 4.0, Lean Six Sigma, and product lifecycle management, with a proven track record of applying advanced research to real-world industry challenges. Dr. Thiyagarajan's research work has been published in leading journals, including the International Journal of Lean Six Sigma, Total Quality Management & Business Excellence, and the International Journal of Productivity and Quality Management. He has also presented

his research at major international conferences. A certified Six Sigma Black Belt, he has held impactful roles in supply chain, quality engineering, and process improvement at Tesla, Schott, Cook Medical, and Zimmer Biomet before joining Medline. Beyond his corporate contributions, Dr. Thiyagarajan actively advances the profession through editorial, advisory, and leadership service. He currently serves on the Editorial Advisory Boards of the International Journal of Lean Six Sigma and the International Journal of Quality & Reliability Management. He is a Board Member of the Logistics & Supply Chain Division of IISE and an Industrial Advisory Board Member for IISE. Within the American Society for Quality (ASQ), he leads the Content Management Committee for Supply Chain Management and contributes as a committee member for Quality 4.0 in the Quality Management Division.



Siva Ravi
Director of Operations Excellence
Marketing Card Technology, LLC
Chicago, IL

Presentation Title: The Hidden Factory: How Poor Quality Silently Erodes Profitability

Siva Ravi is a Quality and Operational Excellence leader with extensive experience in manufacturing, continuous improvement, quality systems, supply chain management, and regulatory compliance. He currently serves as Director of Operational Excellence and Quality at Marketing Card Technology (MCT), where he leads initiatives focused on quality, process optimization, operational performance, and compliance in a highly regulated and price-sensitive industry. Siva has successfully implemented Lean Six Sigma, automation, and data-driven improvement programs that have reduced defects, improved productivity, and increased profitability. He has also helped organizations achieve and maintain Payment Card Industry (PCI) compliance, Payment Card Industry Data

Security Standards (PCI DSS), ISO 9001, SOC 2, HIPAA, and FSC certification requirements. His contributions to the secure payments industry have supported innovative solutions recognized with industry awards for excellence in secure digital transactions. He holds a Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering from PSG College of Technology and a Master's degree in Operational Excellence from Hof University of Applied Sciences. His professional credentials include Certified Supply Chain Professional (CSCP), Certified ScrumMaster (CSM), Six Sigma Black Belt, ISO 9001:2015 Internal Auditor, and Industry 4.0 MES Lead Implementor.

Siva is a Professional Member of the American Society for Quality and the Industrial Engineering and Operations Management Society. His interests include artificial intelligence, intelligent quality management systems, and operational excellence. He is passionate about helping organizations reduce the cost of poor quality, strengthen compliance, and achieve sustainable business performance.

Panels

2:00 – 3:30 pm, June 23 (Tuesday)

Panel – Meet the Editors

Panel Chair – Dr. Ahad Ali

2:00 – 3:30 pm, June 24 (Wednesday)

Panel – AI Impacts in Engineering Education

Panel Chair – Prof. Don Reimer

2:00 – 3:30 pm, June 25 (Thursday)

Panel – IEOM Student Chapters

Panel Chair – Professor Don Reimer

17th Annual International Conference on Industrial Engineering and Operations Management

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, March 23-25, 2027

Host: Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)

Venue: UTM Kuala Lumpur Campus

Conference Chairs: Dr. Muhd Ikmal Isyraf Mohd Maulana and Dr. Mohd Faridh Ahmad Zaharuddin

Website: <https://ieomsociety.org/malaysia2027/>

Submission Link: <https://www.xcdsystem.com/IEOM/abstract/index.cfm?ID=ed4k2v7>

Registration Link: <https://www.xcdsystem.com/IEOM/attendee/index.cfm?ID=I2cHYxy>